

Amendments to the Specification

- 1) Please insert the following subtitle at page 1, below the title:
Background
- 2) Please replace the paragraph at page 4, line 19, with the following:
In figure Figure 1, a stream of air 3 at atmospheric pressure is sent to a compressor 1.
- 3) Please replace the paragraph at page 5, line 23, with the following:
In figure Figure 2, a stream of air 3 at atmospheric pressure is sent to a compressor 1.
- 4) Please replace the paragraph at page 6, line 37, with the following:
In figure Figure 3, air 3 is compressed in a compressor 1, which may be that described in figure Figure 1 or figure Figure 2, and the compressed air is purified and sent to the air separation unit 7. Gaseous nitrogen 9 is withdrawn from the unit 7 and sent to a compressor 11, consisting of three stages CA1, CA2 and CA3. The pressure of the nitrogen is above atmospheric pressure, preferably between 1.5 and 10 bar.
- 5) Please insert the following paragraph at page 7, line 32:
It will be understood that many additional changes in the details, materials, steps and arrangement of parts, which have been herein described in order to explain the nature of the invention, may be made by those skilled in the art within the principle and scope of the invention as expressed in the appended claims. Thus, the present invention is not intended to be limited to the specific embodiments in the examples given above.

- 6) Please replace the subtitle at page 8, line 1, with the following text:

CLAIMS What is claimed is: